

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C50 was approved as  
Minute Item No. 50 by the California State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 4-17-06  
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM  
**C50**

A 73

04/17/06

S 38

PRC 8097.1

J. Smith

COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON ARTIFICIAL REEF  
IN HONOR OF DR. WHEELER J. NORTH

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Coastal Commission (CCC) issued a coastal development permit to Southern California Edison (SCE) for the construction and operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 in 1974. The permit provided for a Marine Review Committee (MRC) to monitor the impact of the operations of SONGS on the marine environment. After 15 years of study, the MRC reported that the operations of SONGS had resulted in significant impacts to fish populations in the Southern California Bight and to the San Onofre Kelp community. The CCC adopted permit conditions in 1991, that required a package of mitigation to compensate for these losses. The CCC subsequently amended those conditions in 1997. The amended conditions required that SCE, among other things, construct an artificial reef capable of sustaining 150 acres of medium-to-high density kelp and associated biota.

SCE proposed a two-phase project. Phase I consisted of the construction of an initial small experimental reef (22.4 acres). Phase II, contingent on the success of Phase I, consists of the construction of a larger reef (127.6 acres) to meet the 150-acre requirement.

At its meeting on June 14, 1999, the California State Lands Commission (Commission) certified a Final Program Environmental Impact Report and authorized the issuance of a lease to SCE for the construction and maintenance of an artificial kelp reef located in the Pacific Ocean, near San Clemente, Orange County.

Representatives of SCE recently contacted Commission staff to request that the Commission commemorate the artificial reef in honor of the late Dr. Wheeler J. North.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. **C50** (CONT'D)

Dr. North was a Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Technology. He devoted his life's work to the marine sciences, focusing on the study of kelp. Dr. North developed techniques for kelp bed restoration and management, which are still in use today. Dr. North was recognized as a true pioneer in the marine science community. He passed away on December 20, 2002, at the age of 80.

**EXHIBITS:**

- A. Location and Site Map
- B. Resolution

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT, IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. WHEELER J. NORTH TO THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC TRUST RESOURCES FOR THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA, THE COMMISSION ADOPT THE RESOLUTION ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT B, COMMEMORATING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON ARTIFICIAL REEF IN HONOR OF DR. WHEELER J. NORTH.

# **SITE MAP**

## **Exhibit A**

PRC 8097:1

**Southern Calif. Edison  
Artificial Reef  
vic. San Clemente, Ca.  
Pacific Ocean  
ORANGE COUNTY**

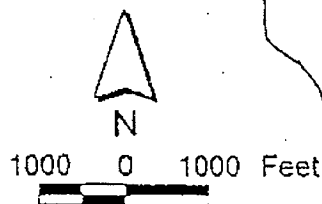
33°25'01.7"N. Lat.  
117°37'45.0"W. Long.  
33°24'47.3"N. Lat.  
117°38'14.9"W. Long.

San Clemente

Pier

DATUM: NAD 1983

I-5



Area of total Lease = 862 acres.  
Area of suitable substrate within  
lease site = 356 acres



Reef Modules

Substrate suitability in lease site



Suitable substrate



Water depth too shallow



Sand thickness greater than 0.5 m



Water depth too deep



Hard substrate

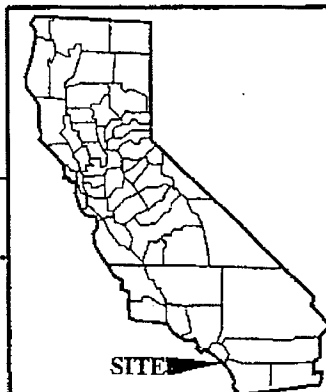
33°22'57.6"N. Lat.  
117°36'45.2"W. Long.

33°23'15.2"N. Lat.  
117°36'20.0"W. Long.

San Mateo  
Point

**Proposed positions of experimental reef modules and substrate  
suitability within the SCE lease site offshore of San Clement Ca.**

This Exhibit is solely for purposes of generally defining the lease premises, and is not  
intended to be, nor shall it be construed as, a waiver of limitation of any state interest in  
the subject or any other property.



SITE

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## EXHIBIT B

### RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION TO NAME THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON ARTIFICIAL KELP REEF IN HONOR OF DR. WHEELER J. NORTH

**WHEREAS**, The California Coastal Commission (CCC) issued a permit to Southern California Edison Company (SCE) for the construction and operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the SONGS is located on the coast near San Clemente in Orange County; and

**WHEREAS**, to mitigate for the impacts on the marine environment from the construction of SONGS Units 2 and 3, the CCC required SCE to, among other things, construct an artificial reef that will sustain 150 acres of medium-to-high density kelp and associated biota; and

**WHEREAS**, SCE proposed a two-phase project, an initial small experimental reef (22.4 acres), and a subsequent larger reef (127.6 acres) to meet the 150-acre requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 14, 1999, the California State Lands Commission (Commission) certified the Final Program Environmental Impact Report and authorized the issuance of a lease to SCE for the construction and management of an artificial kelp reef within state-owned sovereign lands; and

**WHEREAS**, SCE and other stakeholder agencies are reviewing the results of Phase I to determine whether any design changes are warranted in Phase II; and

**WHEREAS**, SCE has respectfully requested that the Commission pass a resolution commemorating the Southern California Edison artificial reef in honor of Dr. Wheeler J. North; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. North obtained a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1944, followed by a B.S. in Biology in 1949, after service in the U.S. Army; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. North was awarded his Masters and Doctorate degrees from the University of California, Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1953, and continued his studies at Cambridge University; and

**WHEREAS**, after his studies at Cambridge University, Dr. North returned to Scripps for almost a decade, to head the Kelp Program, the first marine study of kelp bed ecology and the first to take scientists directly to the sea floor for observations and in-situ experiments; and

**WHEREAS**, he continued his studies of giant kelp along the southern California coast at the Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. North was instrumental in the development of techniques for kelp bed restoration and management, techniques which are still in use today; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001, the American Academy of Underwater Sciences awarded Dr. North the Conrad Limbaugh Award for his life time contributions to scientific diving, recognizing his five decades of stewardship of California's kelp beds; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Wheeler J. North passed away on December 20, 2002, at the age of 80; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of Dr. North, the Southern California Academy of Sciences established the Wheeler J. North Award for Scientific Excellence in 2003, which is awarded to scientists who have demonstrated a commitment to scientific research and the scientific community of Southern California; therefore, be it

**Resolved by the California State Lands Commission** that it recognizes Dr. North for his work as a true pioneer in the marine science community; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Commission recognizes the contributions of Dr. North in the preservation and protection of public trust lands for the people of California; and be it further

**Resolved**, that in honor of Dr. North's efforts in the restoration and management of kelp, the Southern California Edison artificial reef should be known as the Wheeler North Reef. This resolution may be submitted to the United States Board on Geographic Names or other appropriate naming entity in support of any request to formally name the reef in honor of Dr. North.

Adopted by the California State Lands Commission this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006.